

March 9, 1984

LB 692

bill here, things aren't going your way, you get frustrated and angry which rarely happens to me, but I know that feeling because I've had that sensation just a few times as recently as yesterday. I know that Senator Kilgarin will keep working on this and I hope, and I sincerely mean this, I hope that some day she is successful in repealing the medical malpractice law and the reason I hope that she is successful is because I hope on a nationwide basis and on a statewide basis we start addressing some of the real problems of medical costs and get that whole picture under control. Now if we are really serious about medical costs there are things we can do yet this year. Let me just give you a few if we have the courage to do them. Senator Warner tried last year. We killed him. Didn't give him a chance to get any of them going. Take Medicaid. The federal government requires us to have nine specific things that we pay for. I said nine. Nebraska has twenty-three separate programs we pay for. I believe if you will check you will find Nebraska is either number one or number two in the whole United States in the number of type of things we pay for. We truly have a Cadillac program here in Nebraska for the Medicaid type things. The overall picture of medical costs is important and when that is addressed and when some of those things are handled, there will be a day I hope, before Senator Kilgarin becomes even thirty years of age, when she is successful and when this entire body is able to repeal this law because it won't be necessary. Until that time regretfully I think we have to keep this law in effect as one of the techniques for trying to keep medical costs in Nebraska affordable to the consumers. It is not a perfect system. We've tried to make it a lot better with this particular bill and I would urge its support.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The motion is to advance the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We are voting on the advancement of the bill, ladies and gentlemen. Senator John DeCamp, would you come to the legislative floor, please. I want to have a word with you. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance LB 692.